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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

September 22, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents and
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Mike Flanagan, Superintendent of Public Instruction 

SUBJECT: Helping School-Aged Military Connected Children

The Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) will be hosting two professional development seminars in Michigan during the month of November. These trainings will give educators the benefit of the latest research and experience-based techniques and tools to help the children of our servicemen and women have a positive educational and developmental experience during a very challenging time in their lives. Michigan has over 14,000 school-aged children whose parents or guardians are serving or have recently served in the military, many with combat tours in Iraq or Afghanistan. Providing assistance to these children through difficult times is essential for their success. The training provided by the MCEC will not only help our military connected children, but all students in general. Dates and locations for these seminars are:

Detroit	November 8-9, 2011	Courtyard by Marriott Detroit Downtown
Grand Rapids	November 16-17, 2011	Courtyard by Marriott Grand Rapids

Participants can register through the MCEC website at www.militarychild.org. Click on 'Upcoming trainings' and scroll down to the session of your choice. There is no cost to attend these sessions. However, participants can earn continuing educational credit, or even graduate level credit, for a fee. These two sessions are different in content, but both are designed to give educators the awareness and skills to recognize and respond to the needs of military children. As educators, you are aware that the outcomes of any unrecognized and unaddressed stress negatively affect both the child and the school. Those outcomes can include attendance, academics, and behavior, as well as the physical and mental health of the child.

We need to support our school-aged children of military families and these free, professional development sessions are a great way to help these families that are serving our country in such a selfless manner. Questions regarding the content of this memo may be directed to Louis Burgess at 517-373-4337.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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